

## **REMARKS**

Applicant appreciates the indication allowable subject matter with respect to Claim 6. Allowable Claim 6 has been amended for formalities only. Claim 1-5, 7 and 8 are amended without prejudice or disclaimer to obtain rapid allowance of the most clearly allowable subject matter. Claim 9 is cancelled. Claims 10-20 are added. Support for the recited limitations of claims 10-20 may be found in Applicant's specification. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-20 are pending.

### **Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

1. The Office Action rejected Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Sashida et al. (5,257,180). Applicant has substantively amended Claim 8. Support for this claim amendment may be found in Applicant's specification at least at paragraphs [0019 and [0037]. Applicant asserts that the amendment obviates the outstanding claim rejection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 under this code section.

### **Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

2. The Office Action rejected Claim 1, 5, and 9 as being unpatentable over Sashida. Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 5 to more clearly recite the features disclosed by Applicant's specification. Support for these amendments may be found in Applicant's specification at least at paragraphs [0039] through [0046].

No new matter has been added. Claim 9 has been cancelled. Applicants assert that the amendments obviate the outstanding claim rejections. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 and 5 under this code section.

3. The Office Action rejected claims 2 and 7 as being unpatentable over Sashida in view of Balakrishnan et al. (2005/0141246).

Applicant has amended Claim 2 for informalities only. Claim 2 depends from independent Claim 1. Applicant submits that the amendment of Claim 1 obviates the rejection of independent Claim 1. Therefore the rejection of Claim 2 is likewise obviated based on its dependency. Applicant has also amended Claim 7 to depend from allowable independent Claim 6 and asserts that Claim 7 is allowable based on its dependency. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 2 and 7 under this code section.

4. The Office Action rejected Claim 3 as being unpatentable over Sashida in view of Komatsuzaki et al. (2005/01JP-06-038537).

Applicant has amended Claim 3 for informalities only. Claim 3 depends from independent Claim 1. Applicant submits that the amendment of independent Claim 1 obviates the rejection of independent Claim 1 and therefore the rejection of Claim 3 is likewise obviated based on its dependency. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 3 under this code section.

5. The Office Action rejected Claim 4 as being unpatentable over Sashida in view of DeGroot (6,465,992).

Applicant has amended Claim 4 for informalities only. Claim 4 depends from independent Claim 1. Applicant submits that the amendment of independent Claim 1 obviates the rejection of independent Claim 1 and therefore the rejection of Claim 4 is likewise obviated based on its dependency. Accordingly Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 4 under this code section.

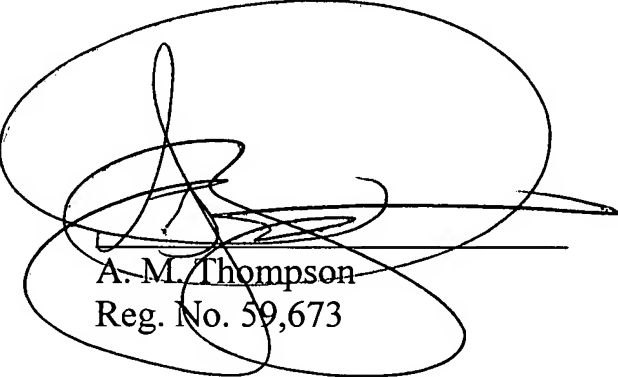
### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing amendment and remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. All objection and rejections have been traversed or accommodated. This response is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed February 8, 2007. No new matter has been added. Applicants submit that the Claims are now in a condition for allowance, and such notice is hereby earnestly solicited.

A petition for a **two (2) month** extension of time is hereby requested and a check for the appropriate fee is enclosed. Applicant has also enclosed a fee for excess claims based on the addition of one independent claim. No other fee is believed to be due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee that may be due as a result of filing this paper to Deposit Account No. 07-2320 of Groover & Holmes.

Respectfully submitted,  
GROOVER & HOLMES

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